

Connections

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Language

Narrative and Discourse



Academic Language

Narrative and discourse skills include all aspects of academic language. Academic language is the expressive (signing/speaking), receptive (listening/viewing), and printed (reading and writing) language proficiency needed to learn effectively in school and academic programs. Academic language also includes related non-linguistic skills that are difficult to separate from language ability such as foundational academic skills (organizing, planning, researching), cognitive skills (critical thinking, problem solving, memorizing, recalling), learning modes (questioning, discussing, observing, experimenting), and work habits (persistence, self-discipline, curiosity, responsibility). Evaluating, tracking, and developing narrative and discourse skills a crucial part of a deaf and hard of hearing child's success.

Did you know?

Intervention gem

Using narratives to address a child's goals allows for better generalization of a skills and faster growth. Providers/Staff can use the child's curriculum stories or books they have at home. Some skills that can be easily addressed include, but are not limited to:

- Narrative level
- Advanced vocabulary development
- Problem solving
- Social skills and theory of mind
- Connected language and complex grammar

Having age appropriate narrative skills is the single best predictor of academic success.*

Narrative skills develop the same across languages, which makes measuring, tracking, and developing narrative and discourse skills essential for every deaf and hard of hearing child.

Evaluation must-have

A narrative and discourse evaluation is the gold standard for language evaluations. It is one of the most researched areas of studies within language development and has the strongest statistics available. The American Speech Language and Hearing Association supports the use of a narrative and discourse evaluation as part of a comprehensive language evaluation- giving insight into a child's social skills, narrative levels, language complexity, grammar complexity, sequencing, descriptors, thinking skills, problem solving, ability to understand and resolve conflicts, following and telling rules, theory of mind, and so much more.

Narrative and discourse evaluations often identify struggles with academic language that are not tested by norm-referenced testing and can reveal areas of need that will help a deaf and hard of hearing child meet their optimum literacy potential. Speech-language pathologists often have in-depth training on how to complete a narrative and language evaluation. Be sure to include this essential information as part of language evaluations.

Narrative Development

You can track your child's narrative development and help ensure they reach their optimum literacy potential. Children should begin to tell heap stories around 2 years of age- combining 2-3 ideas that are possibly unrelated. They continue to develop narrative skills throughout their childhood. Check out the IDEAL Parent Document (page GL-13) for a narrative development guide (<https://www.in.gov/health/cdhhe/files/IDEAL-Parent-Document-General-Language.pdf>). This narrative ages and stages handout provides details about early development (http://www.handyhandouts.com/viewHandout.aspx?hh_number=350).



Find out more

Academic Language

- Importance of Narrative Assessment in Speech Language Pathology* <https://www.smartspeechtherapy.com/revise-narrative-assessments-in-speech-language-pathology/>
- EXCEL² Language Access Series <https://www.in.gov/health/cdhhe/files/EXCEL2-language-access-series-clickable-links.pdf>
- Vocabulary growth and development <https://infercubulary.com/blog/>
- Books as a language tool <http://www.hanen.org/helpful-info/articles/promoting-language-with-books.aspx>

Tools for Narrative Intervention

- Wordless book lists
 - <https://readingmiddlegrade.com/wordless-picture-books/>
 - <https://www.readingrockets.org/booklists/our-favorite-wordless-picture-books>
- Movie short ideas <https://seldomspeechless.com/2020/12/08/animated-shorts-for-speech-therapy/>
- Children's books for narrative intervention <https://time.com/100-best-childrens-books/>
- ASL story models
 - <https://deafchildren.org/knowledge-center/asl-resources/sign-language-stories/>
 - <http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5f5981615a94b38768c53edbf&id=55c403d012&e=c92131d686>

